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★SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION

ZURICH

MAY 6—

OCT. 29, 1939

● See our Country at Work and Play—our Arts and Crafts and Nationhood.

● This truly wonderful Exhibition, staged in a park-like setting along the shore of the Lake at Zurich itself, must not be missed.

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INFORMATION from the Swiss Railways & State Travel Bureau, 11-B Regent Street, London, S.W.1. 'Phone: WHitehall 9851.

HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.)

FEDERAL.

FOUR DEATHS IN SWISS AVALANCHE.

Violent snow storms have been sweeping over the Alps for some days, and avalanches have fallen in many places.

On Wednesday, March 8th an avalanche of powdery snow, 500 yards wide, fell near the Jffigen Alp, above Lenk, and buried 14 officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Infantry Brigade 11, who were carrying foodstuffs to the Wildhorn hut (7,560ft.) where a company of Mountain infantry, numbering 73 men, were marooned. Four soldiers who escaped succeeded in rescuing 10 of their companions, but the four others — three officers and one n.c.o. — were killed.

The names of the dead are: First-Lieutenant Walter Deuschle, born 1909, proprietor of the "Confiserie Deuschle" in Interlaken, married. Second-lieutenant Werner Geissbühler, born 1911, Merchant in Lützelflüh, married. Second-lieutenant Jakob Mohler, born 1911, consulting engineer Yverdon, married. Sergeant Friedrich Moser, born 1909, carpenter Wimmis, single.

The 73 officers and men who had been snow-bound in the Wildhorn Hut for five days came down to Lenk safely on Saturday afternoon. They brought with them the bodies of three of their number who were killed, the body of second-lieutenant Deuschle was found three days later. The danger of avalanches, which prevented their earlier descent, was obviated by the dispersal of the snow by trench mortar fire.

The Federal Council has expressed the thanks of the Confederation to the officers and men who so gallantly bore the ordeal, and also expressed to the relatives of those killed the sympathy of the whole country.

A funeral service for the three victims was held at the church in Lenk at which Army-corps commander Prisi, as representative of the Federal Council and the Federal Military Dept. made the funeral oration.

MORE SWISS TROOPS SNOW-BOUND.

The fifteen men of the Swiss Alpine troops and one civilian who were isolated by avalanches and heavy snow in the Wildstrubel Hut (9,515 ft.) were liberated by a mortar company who detached avalanches by exploding mortar-bombs. They freed the road for the descent, but the rear-guard was overtaken by an avalanche and four soldiers and a civilian, Herr Wecker, of Zurich, who were roped together, were carried down 500ft. They were rescued with several ribs broken, and had to be carried down on sledges.

NINE DAYS IN ALPINE HUT.

Two Zurich skiers, M. Feuchtenbeiner and Mme Ramberschek disappeared on March 3rd while making an excursion in the Aletsch district. On Monday last a search party discovered Mme. Ramberschek in the Hollandia Hut on the Loetschenlücke (10,530 ft.), where she had been isolated since March 5th. She had been short of food and fuel since the previous Thursday, and her condition is very serious.

M. Feuchtenbeiner fell into a crevasse about 100yds from the hut and his body was found completely frozen in the ice.

£15,750,000 SWISS CREDIT.

Negotiations with a Swiss banking group for the issue of a six-year Three and Three-Quarter per Cent. loan of Swiss Frs.315,000,000 (£15,750,000) to the French National Railway Company are, practically completed. The loan will be guaranteed in guilders and dollars at the present exchange rate.

The proceeds are to be used to redeem the Swiss Frs.200,000,000 two-year Four per Cent. loan issued in October, 1937, by all former French railway companies jointly. The balance will probably be used to pay off the Swiss and Dutch credits granted to the French railways, directly or indirectly, through the French Treasury, of which Swiss Frs. 35,000,000 (£1,750,000) mature on 15th March of this year.

LESS UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published there were 68,417 unemployed registered in Switzerland, or 12,095 less than at the same time twelve months ago.

SWITZERLAND REPRESENTED AT THE CORONATION OF THE POPE.

The representative of the Federal Council at the coronation of Pope Pius XII, which took place last Sunday in Rome, was Colonel-of-Division Hans Pfyffer von Altishofen, formerly Swiss Minister at Warsaw. This is the first time that the Swiss Government has been officially represented at a papal coronation.

NEW SPANISH MINISTER IN BERNE.

General Franco has appointed Monsieur Pablo Churruca, a former Counsellor of Legation to the Vatican, to the post of Spanish Minister in Berne.

SPRING SESSION OF THE SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The two Federal Chambers will meet on Monday next for their spring session, which will last for about three weeks.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Damages amounting to over 100,000 frs. were caused through fire at the "Baumwollspinnerei" Ilba, Julius Honegger & Cie, in Wald.

BASEL.

The death is announced of Dr. Hans Abt, from 1924-1934 President of the Appeal Court in Basle, at the age of 69.

The deceased enjoyed for a large number of years the reputation as an excellent judge, and his death is greatly deplored by a large number of friends.

* * *

The death is reported from Basle of M. Fritz Voellmy the well-known Swiss painter, at the age of 76.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION 1939 ZURICH.

National Festivals during the Swiss National Exhibition.

In the course of the 19th century the Swiss people created a number of national festivals which are organised at intervals of a year or so in one or other part of the country. Among these are the Federal Shooting Match, the Gymnastic and Choral Fêtes, the Federal Music Festivals and the Wrestling and Alpine Fêtes. From 1900 onwards these were supplemented by the National "Hornussen" Contests (an ancient peasant sport that originated in the Emmenthal) the great meetings of the Association for Traditional Costumes, and the National Ski-Races.

During the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich (May 6th to October 29th) a large number of these festivals will take place, mostly under the auspices of the Exhibition. The main events are:— from July 3rd to 5th the 6th Federal Yodelling Fête with procession, concerts and a special festival play; on June 10th and 11th the "Hornusser" Fête and from June 19th to 21st (poss. June 26th to 28th) the National Costume Fête at which all the many various traditional costumes from all the parts of the country will be seen to advantage. The biggest national sporting event, the 44th Federal Shooting Match, will not take place in Zurich, but at Lucerne, the well-known resort not far distant from the Exhibition City, from June 16th to July 3rd. The importance of this event is enhanced by the fact that this year it will be combined with the "World Shooting Championship," i.e., the International Shooting Match (June 30th to July 11th). And finally, on August 1st, when on every hill in Switzerland bonfires will be lit to celebrate the Swiss National Day, the Zurich Exhibition will officially welcome all Swiss from abroad.

Calderon's World Theatre at Einsiedeln during the Swiss National Exhibition.

The Summer Open-Air Performances of Calderon's religious play "The World Theatre" will take place on the large square in front of the beautiful baroque Monastery Church every Wednesday and Saturday night from the beginning of July to the end of September. These performances will be given under the auspices of the Swiss National Exhibition. Einsiedeln can be reached from Zurich in under an hour by car and in just over an hour by rail.

INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY MATCH.

ENGLAND v. SWITZERLAND

at

WEMBLEY SPORTS ARENA

on

Thursday, March 30th, at 8 p.m.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the International Ice Hockey Match, England v. Switzerland, which will take place on Thursday, March 30th at 8 p.m., at the Wembley Sports Arena.

The Swiss National Team, which has recently won the European Championship at the International Ice Hockey competition in Zurich, will meet a very strong English Team, and the encounter promises to be full of thrills.

There will also be an exhibition in figure skating by the Swiss champion skater Gerschwiler, who, as it is known, has coached the well-known English skater Miss Coolidge. Two comedians, Lister & Wells will also appear in their frolics on the ice. Apart from the above-mentioned match the Wembley Lions will oppose the Harringay Racers.

We have secured a block of reserved seats in a favourable position, so that the London Swiss may give their compatriots the necessary vociferous support.

Applications for tickets should be made without delay, price of tickets 6/- and 12/-. Please enclose remittance with order.